

IMMOBILIZATION OF FREE-RANGING GALÁPAGOS SEA LIONS (*ZALOPHUS CALIFORNIANUS WOLLEBAEKI*)

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Abstract

9 free-ranging Galápagos sea lions were immobilized for marking, using a combination of Ketamine (ca. 3-5 mg/kg) and Xylazine (ca. 0.5-1.0 mg/kg). The degree of effect depended largely on the animals' behavioural and physiological state before immobilization (after parturition, high arousal, subject to aggression etc.). All 9 animals survived; but it is pointed out that overheating in the immobilized state may quickly result in heart and circulatory failures.

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